



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/939,439	08/24/2001	Robin Levonas	060705-1830	2762
24504	7590	12/14/2004	EXAMINER	
THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, LLP 100 GALLERIA PARKWAY, NW STE 1750 ATLANTA, GA 30339-5948			PHAM, TUAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2643	

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/939,439	LEVONAS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	TUAN A PHAM	2643	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1,3 and 5-10 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 17-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Applicant's Remark, filed on 09-23-2004, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 3, 5-10, and 17-20 under Chen (U.S. Patent No.: 6,256,383) and Betts et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 5,659,581) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Chen (U.S. Patent No.: 6,256,383) and Pfeil et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 5,953,410).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen (U.S. Patent No. 6,256,383) in view of Pfeil et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,953,410, hereinafter, "Pfeil").

Regarding claim 17, Chen teaches a digital signal transceiver (i.e. automatic balance system), comprising:

a transmitter configured to receive a locally generated transmit signal (see figure 1, transmit signal (y));

a hybrid electrically coupled to the transmitter configured to receive and inductively couple the transmit signal to a two-wire transmission line, the hybrid further configured to receive a remotely generated receive signal along the two-wire transmission line (see figure 1, 2 to 4 wire hybrid 24);

a receiver configured to process the remotely generated receive signal (see figure 1, receive signal (x)); and

An echo canceller disposed in parallel between the transmitter and the receiver configured to reduce both short-term echo components and long-tail echo components of the locally generated transmit signal (see figure 1, FIR filter, col.3, ln.10-32, col.7, ln.5-50).

It should be noticed that Chen fails to clearly teach the echo canceller calculates

coefficient values for less than N taps while emulating an N tap digital filter. However, Pfeil teaches such features (see col.3, ln.40-56) for a purpose of calculating the coefficient of the filters.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of echo canceller calculates coefficient values for less than N taps while emulating a N tap digital filter, as taught by Pfeit, into view of Chen in order to improve the echo canceller in communication system.

Regarding claim 18, Chen further teaches the transceiver wherein the echo canceller comprises a bifurcated digital filter that adaptively calculates and applies tap coefficients to each of a plurality of filter taps in a first stage and adaptively calculates and applies a subset of tap coefficient values to a plurality of filter taps in a second stage (see figure 1, FIR filter 32, IIR filter 40, col.7, ln.15-67).

Regarding claim 19, Chen further teaches the transceiver wherein the digital filter adaptively calculates a tap coefficient value for a first tap of the second stage and every k th tap thereafter (see col.7, ln.3-50).

Regarding claim 20, Chen further teaches the transceiver wherein the digital filter interpolates the calculated tap coefficient values for the second stage to identify coefficient values to apply at taps disposed between taps associated with a calculated tap coefficient (see col.2, ln.28-35, col.7, ln.3-50).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 3, 5-10 are allowed.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In order to expedite the prosecution of this application, the applicants are also requested to consider the following references. Although Easton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,431), Fujii et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,638,311), Alavi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,826,279), and Chen (U.S. Patent No. 5,577,027) are not applied into this Office Action; they are also called to Applicants attention. They may be used in future Office Action(s). These references are also concerned for supporting the system and method for echo canceling and far echo canceller for PCM modems.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Tuan A. Pham** whose telephone number is (703) 305-4987. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (703) 305-4708 and
IF PAPER HAS BEEN MISSED FROM THIS OFFICIAL ACTION PACKAGE, PLEASE CALL Customer Service at (703) 306-0377 FOR THE SUBSTITUTIONS OR COPIES.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist, tel. No. 703-305-4700).

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have question on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit 2643
December 12, 2004
Examiner

Tuan Pham



CURTIS KUNTZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600